

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07445 131331Z
ACTION SCS-06

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R 130618Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 839
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7445

SINGAPORE AND MANILA PASS USCG MMD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN HK
SUBJECT: OSCAR L. WALLACE

REF: OPTIONAL FORM 41 FROM DEPARTMENT (CA/SCS) DATED MAY 30, 1978

1. FORM 41 TRANSMITTED COPY OF LETTER TO DEPARTMENT FROM
ATTORNEY JOHN J. SULGER, 982 HIGHLAND AVENUE, PELHAM
MANOR, N.Y. 10803, TELEPHONE (914) 738-0448, REGARDING
HIS CLIENT, WALLACE, WHO WAS DISCHARGED FROM SS GATEWAY
CITY DECEMBER 23, 1977.

2. POST RECORDS CONFIRM WALLACE DISCHARGED FOR CAUSE.
INCLUDED IN POST RECORDS ARE PHOTOCOPIES OF ALL LOG
ENTRIES PERTAINING TO WALLACE.

3. WALLACE JOIN VESSEL SINGAPORE DECEMBER 14, 1977 AND SIGNED
ON AT SEA IN ABSENCE CONSULAR OFFICER. THE FOLLOWING DAY,
WHILE VESSEL EN ROUTE TO BANGKOK, WALLACE WAS RELIEVED OF
ALL WATCHSTANDING DUTIES AND INFORMED HE WOULD BE
DISCHARGED FOR CAUSE AT THE "...FIRST PORT WITH AN
AVAILABLE AMERICAN CONSUL." BASIS OF PROPOSED DISCHARGE
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WAS ALLEGATION THAT WALLACE HAD KNOWINGLY FALSIFIED SHIP'S
POSITION. VESSEL ARRIVED BANGKOK AFTER 1700 HOURS ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AND AGENT INFORMED MASTER CONSULAR
OFFICER NOT AVAILABLE. WALLACE WAS SO INFORMED AND THAT
ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR CONSULAR OFFICER HONG KONG TO
ATTEND VESSEL UPON ARRIVAL. AT APPROXIMATELY 2330 HOURS
DECEMBER 17, MASTER WAS INFORMED BY CHIEF OFFICER THAT

WALLACE HAD CONTACTED CONSUL AND IF MASTER WOULD TAKE HIM TO EMBASSY, HE COULD BE PAID OFF. WHEN MASTER LEARNED THAT CONSUL WOULD NOT ATTEND SHIP, MASTER DECLINED TO PROCEED TO EMBASSY SINCE HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE IT WAS LOCATED AND, ALSO PAPERWORK REQUIRED FOR DISCHARGE WAS NOT PREPARED. MASTER NOTED IN LOG ENTRY HE COULD NOT PREPARE THESE, DRESS, PROCEED TO EMBASSY, PRESENT HIS CASE TO CONSUL, AND GET BACK TO VESSEL BEFORE 0100 CURFEW. WALLACE WAS INFORMED HIS DISCHARGE WOULD TAKE PLACE HONG KONG AS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED. EARLY ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 18, WALLACE AGAIN ASKED MASTER TO BE DISCHARGED BANGKOK AND THAT SAILING BE DELAYED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. WHEN MASTER DECLINED, WALLACE CLAIMED HE WAS BEING HELD AS A "PRISONER" AND DEMANDED TO "BE SET FREE." MASTER INFORMED WALLACE HE WAS UNDER ARTICLES, THAT HE WAS SERVING AS THIRD OFFICER AND WOULD CONTINUE AS SUCH UNTIL HE WAS PROPERLY DISCHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW. WHEN VESSEL ARRIVED HONG KONG, CONSULAR OFFICER ATTENDED VESSEL AND, AFTER CONSIDERING THE CHARGE AGAINST WALLACE AS SET FORTH IN DETAIL IN SHIP'S LOG, AGREED TO MASTER'S REQUEST FOR DISCHARGE.

4. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES, CONGEN WILL PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF ALL MATERIAL IN FILE.

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